October 13, 1834

This morning I was awakened by the strong blinding sun shining off of Pawnee Rock. After sleeping on the cold ground with only a little bit of scratchy buffalo hide to keep me warm I thought that the sun was the best thing to wake me up. My father, Jim Doodle, wasn’t so happy and he started yelling at me to get up because we were supposed to be up and on our way to Fort Larned by know and everyone in our train was waiting for us. I quickly got up and did my chores which were to clean the dishes that we used last night and to collect buffalo chips. I hated cleaning the dishes because they were always covered in flies, the water was always cold and the food never came off the plates easy. When I finished cleaning I feed the oxen and we were on our way.

Since I slept in so late this morning I had to find a way to make it up to the rest of the train. I helped Mrs. Lucinda Cox by watching her three children while she drove the wagon. Her husband is very sick so I try to help her every day. The only other family that I had time to help was the Stuarts. Mr. Stuart was a doctor and helped everyone in our train when someone was sick. I helped them with cleaning their clothes and made sure that they didn’t need any more buffalo chips. Once I finished helping the Stuarts I ran back to my wagon to see if anyone needed my help there. My mom, Mary Doodle told me to go gather some berries and plants. She gave me the plant book and told my little sister to go with me. I didn’t want to go and asked her if my sister, Sally, could do it by herself but my mom started yelling at me and complained about how I first slept in too late so I just walked away before she could complain about anything else. As my sister and I started walking through some bushes we saw a rabbit and we started running after it but we couldn’t catch it. We walked around for a while and found a couple of chips and about a pound of some strange berries, according to the book they weren’t poisonous so we threw them in a bucket and walked back to the trail and caught up to the train.

When we got back to the train, we heard that the train was stopped by an Indian Tribe. Our parents traded a pound of flour and a whip for some of the warmest blankets I have ever felt in my life. I was so happy because it was starting to get cold again and I thought that I was going to freeze in my sleep last night. The only good thing about the cold is that the mosquitoes and flies are starting to go away. As the sun started to get lower in the sky we reach Fort Larned. I was so excited and interested to enter the fort that I forgot all about the blankets and sleeping in late. When we settled and the sun was almost gone we started eating. Supper is my favorite time of the day because everyone comes together and tells stories about what they want to do when they reach Santa Fe. After we ate I wanted to explore Fort Larned but I am too tired so I am just going to fall asleep

By, Jim D